United Nations E AC.51/2001/L.6/Add.10

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
6 July 2001

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-first session
11 June-6 July 2001
Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-first session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Ayman M. **Elgammal** (Egypt)

Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

(item 4 (a))

Section 9. Economic and social affairs

1. At its 22nd and 23rd meetings, on 26 June 2001, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the work programme envisaged under the section. Specific reference was made to the anticipated support for the Second World Assembly on Ageing and the World Summit on Sustainable Development. It was noted that no specific resource provision had been made for the International Conference on Financing for Development although it was also scheduled to be held in 2002. Appreciation was expressed for the contribution of the programme in assisting developing countries in their development efforts.

4. The view was expressed that, although most expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement were consistent with those approved for Programme 7 of

01-44310 (E) 060701

the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, some accomplishments and indicators required a closer alignment with those in the plan. It was considered that further efforts were necessary to develop operational measures for the indicators of achievement cited under the programme. In general, concern was expressed regarding the difficulty to measure "Satisfaction of Member States ..." and "contribution of ... subprogramme advisory services etc.", which were cited as indicators of achievement throughout section 9. It was considered that some of the external factors also required improvement. The indicators of achievements under subprogramme 5, Statistics, were highlighted, as an area where the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has gained significant comparative advantage.

5. The view was expressed that the narratives for consultants and experts should have been more detailed so as to allow easy review.

6. The view was expressed that the level of resources proposed was not commensurate with the work programme to which high priority has been attached, nor was it commensurate with the level of growth proposed for other high priority programmes. It was further expressed that adequate budget resources should be provided for the strengthening of the subprogrammes, particularly for technical cooperation activities. Although the difficulty in projecting extrabudgetary resources was recognized, concern was expressed about the negative impact that the lower level of extrabudgetary resources projected for the biennium 2002-2003 would have on the programme of work. A view was expressed about the need to ensure that the increasing bilateralization trend reflected in voluntary contributions did not weaken the multilateral character of the Organization. It was also felt that the allocation of extrabudgetary resources should be subject to careful oversight in order to ensure that such resources do not distort the priorities set by Member States. Concern was expressed regarding the insufficiency of resources for combating poverty and the continuing decrease of the level of ODA.

7. The inclusion of the United Nations Forum on Forests under section 9 was welcomed. Concern was expressed about the lack of resources for its secretariat for the biennium 2002-2003, and the consequential impact on the programme of work. It was explained that the resources for the operations of the compact secretariat would be addressed through the procedure of programme budget implications statement.

8. A view was expressed that the relevance and role of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development and the Committee for Development Policy should be examined.

9. It was stated that although South-South cooperation was cited in paragraph 9.2 of the Overview, no individual South-South outputs were cited under the various subprogrammes in the section. It was explained that South-South cooperation was always an important consideration in designing and implementing relevant technical cooperation activities, carried out by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and that the organizational structure dealing with South-South cooperation was the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (SU/TCDC) in UNDP.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, subject to the following modifications:

Table 9.9

Under Expected accomplishments, add new paragraphs (e), (f) and (g) as follows:

"(e) Establishment of an expanded framework for information exchange and communication with Governments and civil society.

"(f) Increased efficiency and effectiveness of the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality.

"(g) An increased number of ratifications of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, increased compliance by States parties with reporting obligations under the Convention and improved coordination between the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in contributing to the development and strengthening of human rights mechanisms to ensure the enjoyment by women of their human rights".

Table 9.9

Under Indicators of achievement, add new paragraphs (e) and (f) as follows:

"(e) The number of ratifications of the Convention and its Optional Protocol, the number of States parties submitting their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on time and the number of reports examined by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

"(f) The development of tools and methodologies and the promotion of good practices with respect to system-wide gender mainstreaming by the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, including enhancement of the capabilities of the regional economic commissions to work as focal points for inter-agency coordination on gender issues within the United Nations system".

Paragraph 9.62 (a) (iii) b

In Parliamentary documentation. Reports on, include reference to the report on "existing studies, information and documentation on abuse against older persons".

Table 9.13

Under Expected accomplishments, renumber existing paragraph (c) to (c) (i) and insert new paragraph (c) (ii) "improved coordination of the implementation of the World Solar Programme".

Under Indicators of achievement, paragraph (c), after the phrase "sustainable development", insert the phrase "including the World Solar Programme".

Paragraph 9.69 (a) (vi)

In the last sentence, after the word "development", add the words "including solar energy".

Table 9.21

Under Expected accomplishments, replace paragraph (e) with the following text: "improved access by Governments and international bodies to analytical tools, options and adequate methodologies regarding the linkages between political and economic issues and policies, such as economic sanctions, imposition of coercive economic measures, the relationship between disarmament and development and relevant aspects of post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction".

11. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly to reflect the activities of the United Nations Forum on Forest in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 in the relevant subprogramme of section 9 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

12. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly consider the impact of the increased use of consultants in the implementation of this programme.